

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09805 091604Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4111

S E C R E T GENEVA 9805

NODIS

DEPT PASS TO THE SECRETARY'S PARTY IN BRUSSELS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: CHONA'S MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY

1. I CALLED ON MARK CHONA THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS
THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA (STATE 296386).
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MY CALL TO MAKE POINTS SIMILAR TO
THOSE MADE BY AMBASSADOR LOW (LUSAKA 3882) AND THE
POINTS CONTAINED IN SECTO 32029. I TOLD CHONA THAT
THE SECRETARY EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO SEE HIM THIS
WEEKEND IN LONDON.

2. CHONA WAS GREATLY RELIEVED AND SAID THAT HE ALSO
HOPED THAT MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD BE CLEARED UP.
HE WAS PARTICULARLY TOUCHED BY MY EXPRESSION OF THE
SECRETARY'S VERY HIGH REGARD FOR PRESIDENT KAUNDA
AND TOLD ME THAT KAUNDA HELD THE SECRETARY IN
ESTEEM THAT HE RESERVED FOR VERY FEW OTHER PEOPLE,
AND FOR THIS REASON, HE WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY
THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUED MISUNDERSTANDINGS
BETWEEN THE ZAMBIANS AND OURSELVES.

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3. ACCORDING TO CHONA, KAUNDA IS CONCERNED BY

REFERENCES TO HIS ACCEPTANCE OF A "TWO TIERED STRUCTURE" AND A COUNCIL OF STATE. MISSIONS TO AFRICA BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S SEPT VISIT HAD LED KAUNDA TO BELIEVE THAT POWER IN RHODESIA WOULD BE TRANSFERRED FROM SMITH TO A CARETAKEN GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN. MOREOVER, KAUNDA, IN MENTIONING RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE FIVE POINTS, HAD WANTED TO IMPLY HE COULD NOT COMMIT THE NATIONALISTS TO A PACKAGE THAT THEY HAD NOT SEEN. KAUNDA HAD CALLED CHONA ON DEC 8 AND SPOKE TO HIM FOR ALMOST 45 MINUTES. DURING THE COURSE OF THAT CONVERSATION, KAUNDA SAID TO CHONA THAT IN RETROSPECT HE WISHED HE HAD BEEN MORE CATEGORIC IN STATING HIS RESERVATIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE SECRETARY HAD UNDERSTOOD HIS MESSAGE.

4. SMITH'S CONTINUED INSISTENCE ON A CONTRACT BETWEEN HIMSELF, THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS AND HIS INSISTENCE ON THE FACT THAT HE HAD COME TO GENEVA TO NEGOTIATE THE FORMATION OF A COUNCIL OF STATE HAD LED THE NATIONALISTS IN RECENT DAYS TO CONCLUDE THAT SMITH WAS SPEAKING FROM A PRE-ARRANGED BRIEF THAT HAD AMERICAN AND BRITISH SUPPORT. PUBLIC SILENCE ON OUR PART SEEMED TO BE CONFIRMING THIS IMPRESSION. THE NATIONALISTS - AND BY THIS ONE MUST ASSUME CHONA MEANS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND PERHAPS KAUNDA AND NYERERE - HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE FORESAW AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF PARITY - EVEN WITH WHITE DOMINANCE. I REMINDED CHONA THIS IS NOT WHAT WE MEANT. I ASKED CHONA IF HE QUESTIONED OUR COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE OR TO A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD LEAD INEXORABLY TO THAT OBJECTIVE. CHONA SAID HE DID NOT QUESTION OUR COMMITMENT, BUT WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY TO EXPLORE HOW THESE OBJECTIVES COULD BE ASSURED. IT WAS NECESSARY, HE POINTED OUT, THAT AFRICANS NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION POWER SHARING MEANS PARITY AND THEREFORE A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SMITH CAN FRUSTRATE THE OUTCOME.

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5. CHONA GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY NOT DWELL ON PAST HISTORY, RATHER IT WOULD BE HIS OBJECTIVE TO DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY WAYS OF TRANSFERRING POWER DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. I ASSUME FROM WHAT HE SAID THAT HE WILL REPEAT MANY OF THE ARGUMENTS HE HAS ADVANCED TO AMBASSADOR REINHARDT AND MYSELF. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS, MEETING OBSERVERS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840099-0780
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761259/aaaabyti.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RODESIA CONFERENCE: CHONA'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, ZA, (CHONA, MARK)
To: STATE SS SECRETARY BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006